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THIRD COMMITTEE
Agenda item 100 (c)

HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS: HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATIONS AND REPORTS OF SPECIAL RAPPORTEURS AND REPRESENTATIVES

Australia, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Japan, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Sweden, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United States of America: draft resolution

Situation of human rights in Cuba

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming that all Member States have an obligation to promote and protect human rights and fundamental freedoms as stated in the Charter of the United Nations and elaborated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1/ the International Covenants on Human Rights 2/ and other applicable human rights instruments,

Reaffirming also that all States have an obligation to fulfil the commitments they have freely undertaken under the various international instruments,

Recalling its resolution 48/142 of 20 December 1993, in which it regrets profoundly the numerous reports of violations of basic human rights and fundamental freedoms,

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1/ Resolution 217 A (III).

2/ Resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

Taking particular note of Commission on Human Rights resolution 1994/71 of 9 March 1994, 3/ in which the Commission recognized with deep appreciation the efforts of the Special Rapporteur to carry out his mandate concerning the situation of human rights in Cuba,

Expressing concern about ongoing reports of serious violations of human rights in Cuba, as outlined in the interim report on the situation of human rights in Cuba submitted to the General Assembly by the Special Rapporteur, 4/

Recalling the continued failure of the Government of Cuba to cooperate with the Commission on Human Rights with regard to its resolution 1994/71 3/ by refusing to permit the Special Rapporteur to visit Cuba, and the refusal of the Government of Cuba to respond to the most recent request by the Special Rapporteur to visit Cuba pursuant to his mandate,

Taking note of the recent visit to Cuba of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights,

1. Commends the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights for his interim report on the situation of human rights in Cuba; 4/

2. Expresses its full support for the work of the Special Rapporteur on Cuba;

3. Calls once more upon the Government of Cuba to cooperate fully with the Special Rapporteur by permitting him full and free access to establish contact with the Government and the citizens of Cuba so that he may fulfil the mandate entrusted to him;

4. Regrets profoundly the numerous uncontested reports of violations of basic human rights and fundamental freedoms that are described in the report of the Special Rapporteur to the Commission on Human Rights 5/ and in his interim report; 4/

5. Requests that the Government of Cuba recognize the right of political parties and non-governmental organizations to function legally in the country, allow for freedom of expression, information and assembly and the freedom to demonstrate peacefully, and that it review sentences for crimes of a political nature;

6. Calls upon the Government of Cuba to adopt the other measures proposed in the interim report of the Special Rapporteur to bring the observance of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Cuba up to international standards in accordance with international law and applicable international human rights

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3/ See Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1994, Supplement No. 4 (E/1994/24), chap. II, sect. A.

4/ A/49/544, annex.

instruments and to end all violations of human rights, by inter alia, ratifying international human rights instruments, ceasing the persecution and punishment of citizens for reasons related to freedom of expression and peaceful association, respecting due process and granting permission for access to the prisons by national independent groups and international humanitarian agencies;

7. Decides to continue its consideration of this question at its fiftieth session.